TO THE

SVPREME AVTHORITY,

THE

PARLIAMENT

OF THE

COMMON-VVEALTH

OF

ENGLAND.

The Humble

REMONSTRANCE

OF

Sir *Balthazar Gerbier* Knight.

Touching his ſundry Propoſals, wherein this Commonwealths Intereſt is concerned: And particularly on the preſent neceſſity of laying a Claim unto conſiderable Summes of money due by the States of Brabant & Flanders *unto this Commonwealth.*

BRITISH MUSEUM

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The Humble Remonſtrance
OF
Sir BALTHAZAR GERBIER, *Kt.*

Sheweth,

THat his fidelity and zeal to this State and Nation, which hath bin manifeſted during his thirty yeares applications to the Publike concernments, hath moved him (in regard of giving an account of ſundry particulars) to mention thoſe which he humbly conceived both the Times and Occaſions might juſtly challenge at his hands, unto ſuch Members as are intereſſed in the managing of this Commonwealths affaires.

And whereas the Parliament hath of late directed a ſolemn Embaſſage to the States-Generall of the *United-Provinces*, poſſibly with an intent to proceed in the like manner towards ſuch other Kings and States as ſhall deſerve their Amity:

Your humble Remonſtrant hath long ſince prepared and penned ſeveral particulars wherein the publike ſervice is concerned, and hath kept them in readineſſe againſt ſuch a time as the State might be pleaſed to call for them to be conſidered of, either publikely, or privately: For that ſome of them are ſuppoſed to be of the nature of *Arcana Reipublicæ*, the keeping of them ſecret proving to be as their life: and therefore (as he humbly conceives) they ought to be conſidered of in the like manner, and to be reſolved on out of hand.

Such are ſeveral of his Propoſals, which in the year 1623. were diſcovered by a conſiderable Party unto thoſe Perſons who as then were the prime Miniſters in Authority; and the which, ſhould they at preſent be conſidered of, would happily not only be judged fit by the Parliaments great wiſdome to be kept ſecret, but to be undertaken out of hand, in conſideration of the preſent conjuncture of affairs, when as neighbour-Nations are hammering on Treaties, and patching up their differences: Which being once allayed, the ſaid parties may in all likelihood proceed to ſuch reſolutions, and enter on ſuch Engagements, as that when they ſhall be once put in practiſe, would prove too late for to be provided againſt.

Your humble Remonſtrant hath therefore, in conformity

conformity of his zeal and fidelity, attended to give a clear account of all those particulars wherein this State may be concerned, and with that reference to the publike good as may be justly expected. The which did lately beget a jealousie in him, on an Information which hath been given in, of the necessity there was to call him to an Account; when as his voluntary and free Attendance could not imply any necessity to such an Information; For that he hath been far more ready to open his Budget, then possibly the multiplicity of Affairs could afford a time to view his Pack.

And whereas he humbly conceives, that Inferiors cannot too much expresse their fidelity, zeale, and readinesse unto Superiors: So lest it should be conceived, that by his having but one Tongue to speak, he should want hands during the time of his attendance, to put himself in a readinesse to be accomptable to the Parliament, remitting to their great wisdomes the fit opportunity of their taking notice of his said Proposals, and to order therein according unto their pleasure.

He therefore thought it requisite humbly to dilate himself in this manner on his Proposals; and to demonstrate how that in the first place those particulars which were presented in the year 1623. unto such persons who were then in Authority, are of such a nature, as that in case they be made use of at present, they may stand this Commonwealth in as great a stead, as the golden Mines do unto the King of *Spaine*.

Secondly, That there are certain Establishments extant

extant in other Countries, which if they were practiſed here in *England* under the Parliaments protection, would be very beneficial to the people, and produce a vaſt ſtock of ready monies for the States uſe: Some of the ſaid Eſtabliſhments being proffered to be erected by ſuch perſons, as demand nought ſave this Commonwealths protection and encouragement in thoſe ſaid Eſtabliſhments; which will produce a preſent vaſt ſtock of ready monies, together with a conſtant conſiderable yearly Revenue to boot for this Commonwealths uſe; and the gaining of the Peoples love.

Finally, That there is (as he humbly conceives) *periculum in mora*, in the not preſent heeding of a claime to be laid on a Debt of Seven millions of pounds, which are due unto this State by thoſe of *Brabant* and *Flanders*. Wherefore your humble Remonſtrant (to make good his ſaid zeal, as well by his pen, as by his heart and tongue) preſents the ſtate thereof unto your Honours in the enſuing lines *Viz.*

The Annals of *Brabant* and *Flanders* mention that it hapned on the 5. day of *March*, how that the great Commander of *Caſtile*, Governour of the *Netherlands*, being deceaſed, a Councel of State was appointed to govern in thoſe Provinces: and the ſaid Councel was authorized by Letters Patents from King *Philip* the ſecond under his great Seale, in date, *March* 24. 1576. The ſaid King of *Spaine*, (by his Letters of *April* 1576. invited Queen *Elizabeth* to continue a correſpondencie with thoſe of his ſaid Councel of State in the ſaid Provinces: And by that Councel

of

of States appointment ſo authorized, acknowledged and recommended, The Duke of *Arſcot* was choſen and declared Generall for the King of *Spaine* in thoſe Provinces. The ſaid Dukes Commiſſion being under that Kings Broad-Seal, dated the 3. of *October* 1576.

The ſaid States as then ſtanding in need of a conſiderable ſtock of moneys, ſent to ſuch Neighbours as they conceived to be in a capacity of furniſhing them: and as they ſent to the Prince Elector of *Cullen*, to the Duke *Caſimir*, and others for a Loan of moneys, they likewiſe ſent unto Queen *Elizabeth*.

Their Ambaſſadours were the Baron *Sweueghen* and the Marqueſſe of *Haure*; and the Queen was pleaſed to appoint the Lord *Burley*, and the Earle of *Suſſex* and others, to Treat with them concerning the Loan of money, for which they offered their Bonds, and to ſecond them by the Bonds of the States of *Brabant* and *Flanders*, together with thoſe of the Towns of *Bruxels*, *Antwerpe*, *Gendt*, *Bridges*, *Newport*, and *Dunkirck*.

Thoſe Ambaſſadours and States obliging their Perſons, and the Magiſtrates of the reſpective Towns themſelves, and their Inhabitants for ever; untill full ſatisfaction ſhould be made, not onely of the ſaid Loans capital ſumme, but alſo of its Intereſt at Six and a quart. *per Cent. per Annum.* Whereupon, the Queen was pleaſed to grant them a Loan on the above mentioned Conditions.

And whereas the reſpective original Bonds, of which your humble Remonſtrant hath given notice to the Councel of State, are in ſafe Cuſtody, ſo they doe

doe manifeſt the reality of the ſaid Debt.

Which together with its Intereſt from the year 1578. untill this preſent time doth amount unto ſeven Millions of pounds, lawfull moneys of *England*, ſince neither the Uſe money nor its Capital is yet paid.

The Loan of the moneys was allowed of by King *Philip* the Second, as it appears by the eight Article of thoſe States Treatie with their King at *Marche* in *Famines*, on the 27 of *February* 1577. and the which was ratified and confirmed, as appears by the nineteenth Article of the Surrender of *Arthois* in *Haynault*.

The ſaid King alſo returned his thanks unto Queen *Elizabeth*, for that ſhe had aſſiſted his Subjects.

Moreover thoſe States ſpecified the ſaid Loan in their Accounts, which were by them exhibited to their King, on the ſecond of *September* 1584.

And the King of *Spain* paſt thoſe Accounts in lue of their Taxations and ordinary Contributions; ſo that the Debt thereby became thoſe States, and thoſe reſpective Towns and members particular proper Debt.

And therefore it is to be demanded of them, and not at all from any Governour in chief of thoſe Provinces, much leſſe from from the King of *Spain* himſelf.

Which the late Arch-Ducheſſe *Iſabella* declared unto them, when late Mr. *Trumbal* Agent, both in King *James* and in the late Kings time, had laid a Claim to the ſaid Debt, and had proſecuted the Debtors

Debtors, when the ſaid Arch-Ducheſſe warned and adviſed them alſo to ſatisfie on the ſaid particular, for that ſhe would not bear them out in the ſame.

So that both by Mr. *Trumbal* his purſuite, and the Arch-Ducheſſe her declaration unto thoſe Debtors, there would have enſued a good ſatisfaction on that particular, had not the ſaid Agent been recalled by reaſon of the following rupture between *England* and *Spain*.

The ſaid Agent *Trumbal* had likewiſe contracted with one *Tymon* an Advocate, to proſecute the payment of the ſaid Debt; Conditionally that the ſaid *Tymon* ſhould have a certain part of whatſoever he ſhould recover touching the ſaid Debt; and this in conſideration of the ſaid Advocates pains, diſburſments, and ſuch Preſents as he ſhould be obliged to give unto ſuch Perſons as might be in credit with thoſe States, and with the Magiſtrates of the reſpective Towns.

The ſaid Claim was again renewed in the year 1640. and was ſeconded by the late Kings own Letters to the Infant Cardinal, and to the Chancellor of *Brabant*, and by the ſaid Kings Commiſſions, which he cauſed as then to be diſpatched on that particular; the Copies whereof are here inſerted, *viz.*

The translation of the late Kings Letter to the Infant Cardinal, in date the 20. of *June* 1641.

Dear Cozen,

WEe would not let Our Reſident Sr. Balthazar Gerbier *depart without our Letter, for to confirm unto You the particular aſſurances of Our Affection, as alſo of the deſires and good wiſhes which We ſhall alwaies have for the continuance and advancement of the good Correſpondency which is betwixt theſe Crowns. In regard whereof Our Reſident will tell your Highneſſe the reſcentments which we have witneſſed againſt the Count of* Egmond, *for that he undertook to cauſe ſuch Books to be Printed in Our States, as did tend to the prejudice of Yours; And how much we have diſapproved this his proceeding.*

We have alſo charged Our ſaid Reſident with a Commiſſion from Us, for to demand and procure the payment of conſiderable ſummes of moneyes due unto this Crown by the States & Town of Brabant *and* Flanders; *Wherein we promiſe Our Selves thoſe neceſſary offices from your Juſtice and Power, as may be requiſite towards the procuring unto Us of the ſaid ſatisfaction which is due; And that Your Highneſſe will order that the complaints of Our Subjects, which doe ſtill continue, may once ceaſe: On all which Our ſaid Reſident being fully Inſtructed, we ſhall not make any addition hereunto, only deſire You to give him full Credence in what he ſhall ſay thereon; And thus We ſhall beſeech God to continue*

you

Dear Cozen in his holy Protection. From Our Palace of Weſtminſter 20. June 1641.

Was Signed Your moſt Affectionate Cozen,
Charles R.

A Copy of the late Kings Letter to the Chancellour of *Brabant.*

Mr *Chancellor*, *We have charged* Sr. Balthazar Gerbier *Our Reſident, both with Our Commiſſion and Letters for to procure the payment of notable ſums of money due unto this Crown by the States and Towns of* Brabant *and* Flanders, *whereof We would give you notice, to the end that if he ſhould be conſtrained to make uſe of the Courts of Juſtice, for to procure Us that ſatisfaction which is due unto Us, he might reſt aſſured of Your good Offices, according unto the dignity of Your place in that Country; the which We doe eaſily promiſe unto Our Selves from You in ſo juſt a Cauſe; Wherefore remitting Our Selves there on unto Our Reſident; We ſhall remain,* Your friend C. R.

Mr. Chancellour. 5. March 1640.

The Copy of the late Kings Commiſſion for the Claim of the Debt.

CHARLES by the grace of God King of great Britain, France *and* Ireland, *Defender of the Faith, &c. To Our loyal and wellbeloved Sr.* Balthazar Gerbier *Knight, Our Reſident in the Court of* Bruxels.

 Whereas

Whereas during the Reigne of Queen Elizabeth *of happy memory (Queen of* England*) ſeveral notable ſummes of moneyes were lent unto the States General, and to ſome of thoſe Towns in the Low-Countries, which are in Obedience unto the King of* Spaine*; which ſums are due unto Us by Vertue of thoſe Inſtrumens and Obligations which on the ſame were reſpectively made and diſpatcht by the ſaid States and Towns for Our uſe; And for that nought hath as yet been reſtored unto Us for the ſaid Loan, either by themſelves, or by others in their behalf, notwithſtanding the ſeveral endeavours which have been uſed heretofore, as well in the behalf of Our late Father of happy memory, King* James*, as in Our own behalf by Mr.* Trumball *Our Agent in the ſaid Court of* Bruxels*.*

We therefore have ordained and Authorized You, as by theſe Preſents We doe Ordaine and Authorize You, in Our behalf, and in Our Name, to aske and require from the ſaid States and Towns (as well in generall as in particular) all ſuch ſummes, with their Intereſts, as appear to have been ſo lent unto them, by the ſaid Queen, and the which are due unto Us by the ſaid States and Towns.

Commanding and Ordaining You moreover to uſe all ſuch means, purſuits and inſtances, which ſhall be needfull for the recovery of the ſaid ſummes and of their Intereſt.

And theſe Our preſent Letters ſhall be a ſufficient declaration and witneſſe (unto your ſelf, as well as unto all others, whom it either doth or may concern) of the ſpeciall power which we have and doe give unto you, on this particular.

Given

Given at our Palace at Weſtminſter. *Signed by Our Self, and ſealed with Our Signet, the fifth day of March,* 1640. ſtilo veteri, *and the ſixteenth yeare of Our Reigne.*

This Commiſſion, as likewiſe the Credentials are tranſlated *verbatim* out of the French tongue, in which the Originals are written; having been thought neceſſary to be penned in that language, becauſe that they might have been made uſe of in caſe of neceſſity. For that it was agreed on between King *Henry* the Seventh and the Duke of *Burgundy*, that their publique Conferences ſhould be in the French tongue, in which their publique Miniſters were likewiſe to ſpeak.

And the ſaid Commiſſions were alſo diſpatcht at that time, for that a Perſon in authority in thoſe Provinces had made a propoſition to procure ſatiſfaction from thoſe States for the ſaid Debt, they (as it ſeems) being ſenſible of its Intereſt exceſſive increaſe; apprehending likewiſe, that as then the Engliſh Nation might have tranſported the ſaid Debt either to the *Hollanders* or to the *French*, then in open war againſt them; And therefore ſhewed ſo great a willingneſſe to come to a compoſition thereon.

Which being duly repreſented to the late King, the ſaid Commiſſion was immediately diſpatched; which was the rather effected, to ſave it from preſcription, as the ſaid Debt requires to be claimed at every change of Government.

But the late King being at that time highly incenſed

cenſed againſt your humble Remonſtrant, for that he had (in obedience to the Peers commands, then aſſembled in Parliament) declared the names of ſuch as betrayed this State, eſpecially the L. *Cotttington*; He therefore cauſed Sir *Henry Vane* then Secretary of State, to call in again the ſaid Commiſſion concerning that particular (which Commiſſion was under the great Seal) and likewiſe redemanded the Authentique Copies of the Original Bonds and Inſtruments, which had been tranſlated here by a publike Notary, and unto which the City of *London's* Seale was affixed.

Inſomuch that the ſaid chief Commiſſion, and the other authentique Copies being redemanded, and your humble Remonſtrants return to *Bruxels* being impedited, the proſecution of the ſaid Debt hath ever ſince layen dormant.

That the ſaid Commiſſion, with the Credentials, and the ſaid Authentique Copies of the Bonds concerning the *Flanders*-Debt, were in this manner redemanded and delivered, it doth appear under the ſaid Sir *Henry Vanes* hand, as followeth, *Viz.*

Sir, *I have received a ſpecial command from His Majeſty, to redemand of you the Letters and Orders you received for your Return to* Bruxels. *Which I ſhall intreat you to deliver unto this Bearer my Secretary, without any further delay. And ſo I reſt.* Whitehall, *the* 31. *of July*, 1641. Is ſigned,

Your aſſured loving friend, H. Vane.

The Copy of the Receipt, *viz.*

Received by the Order here above, from Sir Balthazar Gerbier, *the Letters and Papers therein mentioned, to wit, A Commission to sollicite the payment of Debts due by the States of* Flanders: *Four Letters of Credence; two to the* Infant-Cardinal, *one to the President* Rose, *and another to the Chancellor* Boiscot; *and Copies of the Bonds. Witnesse my hand, this* 3. *of August* 1641.

Signed, Sidney Beare.

Hereby this particular Case is stated; The proceedings which have been formerly held thereon are manifested, and the cause of its having remained dormant ever since.

The which in case it be renewed before the Debitors may justly plead a Prescription, and before they shall have any other cause to pretend any other evasions: Then the said Debitors may be so wise as to desire and seek to come to a Compositon on the Total, before it amounteth to a further Increase: when as moreover they shall be induced to apprehend, that a Transportation of the said Debt might be made unto the *French* their Enemies.

So likewise on the other side, may the *French* be called upon for the satisfying of the said Debt, since they possesse the Town of *Dunkirk*, which in its own particular stands bound for the Debts liquidation.

Finally, Your humble Remonstrant conceiveth, That as this States remaining silent as touching the said Claim, cannot stand this Commonwealth in stead

ſtead in any regard whatſoever, nor cauſe that Nation to eſteem it any more for the ſame: But to the contrary, if after the claiming of the ſaid Debt, this Commonwealth ſhall think it fit to grant thoſe States a favourable Compoſition thereon, a Forbearance, or an Acquittance of the Intereſt upon Intereſt; Then thoſe People muſt needs acknowledge the perpetuall Obligation which they will thereby owe for ſo conſiderable a Favour.

FINIS.

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